

# Creating New Partnerships: The Link Between Neighborhood Crime & Blight

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Provide brief summary of how partnership came to be.

SJ Case Study of integrated efforts – focused efforts combined with integrated implementation brings powerful benefits

## Benefits from Integrated Compliance

### Environmental

- Watershed Protection
- Diversion of Solid Waste
- Public Health and Safety

### Community

- Crime Reduction
- Job Creation
- Streamlined Communication

### Resource Management

- Leveraged staffing and budgets



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While the participating City department have diverse missions,  
ESD – What's ESD's stake in this?  
PD – PD's?  
PBCE – PBCE's

#### Environmental benefits

- Best use for material (reused/recycled v landfilled)

#### Community benefits

- Desirable location to live
- Desirable location for businesses
- Expands interested clientele at businesses

We all shared a common interest in improving the circumstances of these a specific group of neighborhoods.

Integrated efforts align with our Mission

## Environmental

### Storm water Quality

- High Trash & Litter Hot Spots
- Concentrated Illegal Dumping
- Low HHW Participation - Dumping



### Solid Waste Diversion

- Under Subscription to Waste Services
- Low Participation – Recycling, Bulky Goods, etc
- Hard to Manage Waste: Mattresses & Large items
- Health and Safety for Collection and Sorting Staff



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The problems of crime and blight in a neighborhood are often strongly related to the Environmental Quality of life.

Environmental Quality issues, like stormwater pollution and low recycling and composting participation are more than just “key indicators” of a neighborhood in crisis.

They are the result of a lack of the kind of behavioral modeling among the residents that is a necessary condition for a healthy community

## Community

### Crime Reduction

- Broken Window Theory
- Behavior Norms

### Job Creation

- Local Recycling Jobs
- Mattress Pilot – job training

### Tailored Messaging

- Frequently same audience
- Relevant messages get action



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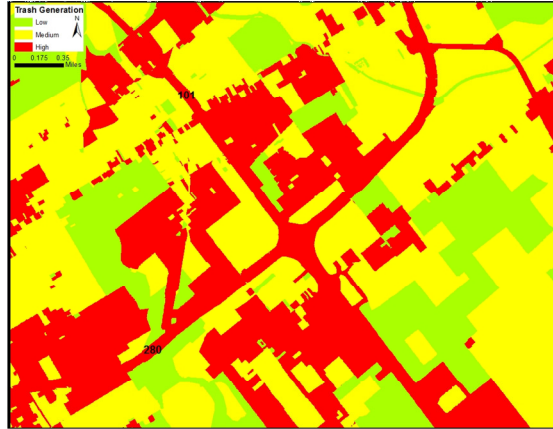
Photo: The Importance of Demonstratively Restoring Order: Keizer, Lindenberg, Steg

## Studies

Normative cues – The biggest reduction in a person's chance to violate norms is seen in non-blighted areas where people actively keep up the surroundings

- The Importance of Demonstratively Restoring Order PLOS 2012
- Above picture is from study, 6% of individuals (blight visible) v 34% of individuals (no blight, litter pickup)

## Trash Management Hot Spots



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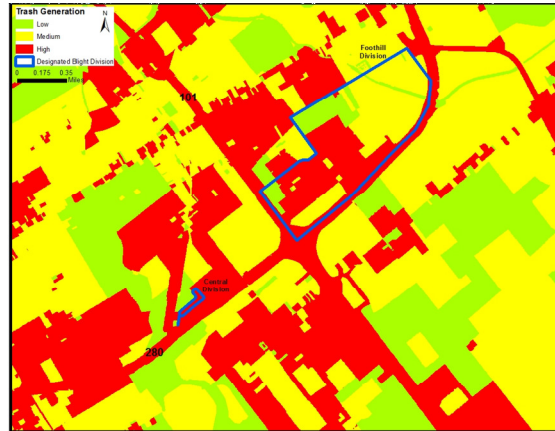
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One of the key tools that we are using is GIS, which allows us to map the areas of concern

Land use

Socio economic

## High Crime Pilot Areas



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Higher violation rates  
Graffiti  
Blight issues - dumping

## Resource Management

### Staffing/Program Efforts

- Code Enforcement
- Environmental Services
- Parks
- Dept. of Transportation
- Police



### Development of Pilot to Test Processes

- Applications to other areas in future



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#### ESD

- Education focused outreach for property managers/MFD residents
- Explore solid waste violation referral

#### Code

- Increase focus on non-solid waste blight

#### PRNS

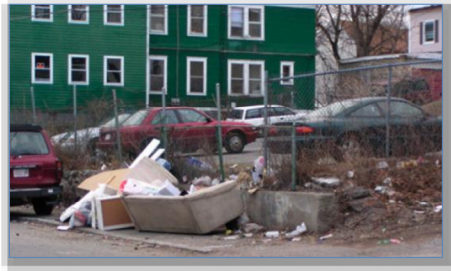
- Connect anti-litter/graffiti program with residents/property managers
  - Litter kits
  - Graffiti kits
  - San Jose Clean app

#### PD

- Increase in referrals to appropriate department

## Coordinated Efforts in Hot Spot Areas

- Capturing Violations
- Removing Blight – Large items, Graffiti, Litter
- Engaging the Community
- Tracking Reductions in ongoing blight and crime



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## Integrated Solutions to Test and Share

- Coordinated Efforts among Field Staff and Contractors
- Codification of Processes and Benefits
- Safety as an umbrella message in high impact areas
- Coordination and Community Engagement as a Stormwater permit proposal
- Regional Collaboration - JOIN US!
- Presentation to State and National Audiences



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1. Many cities use Code to enforce
2. SJ testing focused support from solid waste team
3. Connection to Code gives stronger message to env beneficial programs
4. Pilot program can provide proposal for stormwater permit proposal